

STATEMENT BY PERU

Peru reaffirms its commitment towards the conservation and responsible use of fishery resources in the Southeast Pacific, including the Jack mackerel *Trachurus murphyi* whose recovery requires the cooperation of coastal States and States, regional organizations of economic integration and fishing entities interested in fisheries in the area. Furthermore, Peru values the technical work and analyses made by the Scientific Committee that held its 1st session in La Jolla, California, U.S.A., in October 2013 and supports its findings and recommendations. In particular, Peru supported and continues to support the Scientific Committee recommendation *that fishing effort on Trachurus murphy should be maintained at or below 2013 levels to maintain the likelihood of spawning biomass increasing and that the Commission is to aim to maintain 2014 catches for the entire Jack mackerel range in the southeast Pacific at or below 440,000 t.*

While supporting this recommendation, Peru regrets that in adopting its Conservation and Management Measures (CMM 2.01) for *Trachurus murphy* for 2014 the Commission has decided to assign to itself an exceptionally large proportion of this indicative total catch limit, for an amount of 390,000 t, to be caught in the area of application of the Convention. The Peruvian Delegation feels compelled to reiterate and place on record its strong disagreement with this decision by the Commission regarding the catch limits for Jack mackerel *Trachurus murphyi* within the area of application of the Convention, noting that Jack mackerel is a straddling fish species that distributes and sustains important fisheries both within the area of application of the Convention as well as in the jurisdictional waters of coastal states such as Peru, whose jurisdictional waters are not part of the area of application of the Convention.

Furthermore, this Delegation wishes to note that the 2014 catch limit that has been decided in CMM 2.01 is much larger than the already large share set up for 2013, while the scientific evidence available doesn't support an expansion of the catch limits beyond those set in 2013. It is the view of this Delegation that in taking this decision, the Commission is seriously compromising the declared aim of maintaining 2014 catches at or below 440,000 t for the entire Jack mackerel distribution range and has not given proper consideration to several relevant articles of the Convention, including the ones aimed at ensuring long-term sustainability and those referring to the interest and needs of a coastal State such Peru, that has an important Jack mackerel fishery in its jurisdictional waters.

Given the above and with regards to the Peruvian fisheries in areas under its national jurisdiction, this Delegation reaffirms that in the exercise of its sovereignty rights, Peru has and will continue to adopt the management and conservations measures that would deem more appropriate on the basis of the best and most up to date information available, including the results of the fisheries research work conducted by its own fisheries research institutions, the analyses and results of the Scientific Committee when applicable, and any other scientifically sound information available. In this respect and as already noted to this Commission, the Peruvian Delegation herewith reports that on the basis of the best scientific information available, the Peruvian Government has already set a catch limit of 130,000 t for Jack mackerel to be caught in Peruvian jurisdictional waters in 2014.

With regards to the sharing of the catch limit set up by this Commission for catches in the area of application of the Convention, this Delegation notes with dismay that the Commission has drastically changed the baseline and criteria for calculating the proportions to be used in calculating the catch limits to be assigned to each participating party fishing in the area of application of the Convention. With respect to those set up in 2013 (in CMM 1.01), these changes result in: large increases in the catch limits assigned to some contracting parties; limited changes in the catch limits assigned to other contracting parties; and, a very large reduction in the catch limit assigned to Peru, a cooperating non-contracting party. This, in the view of the Peruvian Delegation, is detrimental to the plans and legitimate interest and expectations of Peru to actively participate in the Jack mackerel fishery in the high seas, within the area of application of the Convention. In this respect, the Peruvian Delegation expresses its strong disagreement with the criteria and outcome of these calculations and reserves its right to continue to raise these concerns as appropriate, in the expectation that we may have a larger participation in this high seas fisheries in the near future.